

FALL

2009

THE NET

Lincoln Business Watch

WINTER

2010

YOU GET WHAT YOU PAY FOR-

Many businesses subscribe to alarm services for better protection of their assets. When the owner or employees are away the alarm system is there to "watch over" and protect the establishment. Most of the time if an alarm is triggered at a business the monitoring company will telephone a key-holder for the business and also call the local law enforcement so that officers can respond in case there is a problem. However, too often the business representative will circumvent the process and tell the alarm company to disregard calling the police. The key-holder will then respond to their business only to find that the alarm was legitimate and a break-in had occurred there. Worse yet is when the key-holder arrives to a crime in progress and is ill prepared to have a confrontation with the criminals. If you are already paying for an alarm service allow them to follow their protocol in calling the police. Your tax dollars are already paying for the police to respond, day or night, so do not disregard having officers sent to the alarm. One- the police are better prepared for a potentially violent confrontation and, two- with a timely response we stand a better chance of catching someone in progress or clearing the crime.

COMMERCIAL BURGLARIES

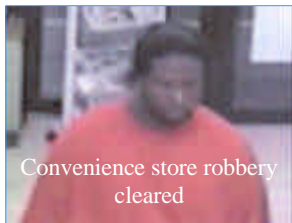
From January through August in 2008 there were 201 commercial burglaries in Lincoln. During that same time frame in 2009 there were 269 burglaries- a 33.8% increase. The areas with increased housing growth, new schools construction and new commercial/retail areas were the hardest hit. The break-ins continue to occur more frequently at the businesses with less security. Places with overhead doors left open, unlocked doors and windows, or those in remote areas are more likely to be victimized. Encourage employees to do a quick security survey of their area before they leave work for the day. A few minutes is all it would take to make sure doors and windows are shut and secure. Outside storage areas should be checked to make sure they are secure and use an adequate lock for the job required.

STORAGE UNIT BURGLARIES

Throughout the spring and into the late summer months there was an upswing in the number of storage units being broken into. The most notable thing about the burglaries was that only those units with weak locking mechanisms were entered. If the unit was secured with a disc lock or shrouded-haspl lock it was not tampered with. A small investment to buy a more secure lock can make a big difference.



When using a storage unit maintain an inventory of what is kept there. Write a description of your property including a serial number if possible. Photographing the belongings could also be beneficial in case of a theft. Keep all of your inventory information at a separate location such as your home or a safe-deposit box.



Convenience store robbery cleared

Actual surveillance photos



Best Buy- Theft of computers; assaulted the employee

PHOTO FINISHES

The technology of video surveillance systems has greatly improved making them more accessible and easier to use. Because of these improvements more and more companies are using cameras at their businesses. The result is that we often have access to video and photos after a crime occurs. This evidence has been a big help to police investigations by corroborating witness and victim statements plus by providing pictures that can lead to the identification of the perpetrators. To achieve the greatest benefit from a camera system have someone who understands its operation be responsible for it. To get the best images the FBI suggests following these guidelines:

- 📺 Make sure your alarm and camera systems are working properly and are always on.
- 📺 Camera mounted no more than 7.5' above floor.
- 📺 Maximum distance of 10' from target area.
- 📺 Monitor customer lines, customer desk & parking lot.

For further proof showing how prolific these systems have become go to our Crime-Stoppers web-site at: www.lincolncrimestoppers.com Since we can now get so many pictures of criminals in action we are going to give our best effort at having those images available for identification and subsequently making arrests and clearing the cases.

“The NET”

CHANGES TO BUSINESS WATCH

Throughout the Lincoln Police Department we continue to reassess our work load and priorities to make the best use of our resources. Of course our primary goal, and purpose, is to enforce laws and have staffing available to respond to citizen's calls. During the last efforts of drafting the city-wide budget it was decided to cut the money used for printing and mailing “The NET” newsletter. The newsletter will now be exclusively available on-line on the LPD website at www.lincoln.ne.gov/city/police/crime/net.htm

The same website has access to a variety of information pertinent to neighborhood groups including crime statistics, current calls for service in your area, Crime Stoppers and crime prevention publications. Please use these resources to keep your business informed about what is occurring in your area. Although we will not be sending mailings any longer our department remains dedicated in providing citizens with current information. Everything that previously went through the mail is available on the website.

INTERNET SAFETY TIPS from the National Crime Prevention Council at nccpc.org:

- ☞ Be aware that there are people online who would like to gain access to your personal information. Do not share this information unless you have initiated the exchange or are absolutely sure of who is receiving it.
- ☞ Do not use your name, date of birth, address, or any other personal information for passwords. These passwords are easily cracked by hackers. In fact, it is suggested that for any password, you should not use a word that is found in the dictionary, as there are hacking programs that will attempt every word in the dictionary.
- ☞ Never disclose personal information in response to an email. Legitimate businesses would never ask you to do this. If an email or pop-up ad requests you to confirm personal information, even if it looks genuine, it is an example of phishing and should be reported to reportphishing@antiphishing.org, the attorneys at the Securities and Exchange Commission at enforcement@sec.gov, and to the Federal Trade Commission at uce@ftc.gov.
- ☞ If you are concerned about an email you receive from a company, contact that company by phone to verify the information. If there is a web link provided in the email, type it directly into your browser instead of using the link or copying and pasting it, as some links can be redirected to other sites.
- ☞ When giving personal information over a website, check to make sure that site is secure. Look at the first part of the web address in your browser. It should read https:// and not http://
- ☞ Regularly check your credit card and bank statements and keep track of your transactions. Also, log into your online accounts frequently. This way, you will be able to notice any changes to your account soon after it happens.
- ☞ Remember that online information and images can live forever. It can be very hard and sometimes impossible to take down information that is posted, and photos and information may already have been copied and posted elsewhere.
- ☞ Some college admissions boards and employers are checking social networking sites before they admit students or hire people.

PLEASE CHECK OUT THESE

ON-LINE RESOURCES:



In progress crime?
CALL: 911

Belated crime?
CALL: 441-6000

www.lincoln.ne.gov/city/police

Read “The Chief’s Corner”
at: lpd304.blogspot.com



LARCENY FROM AUTO PREVENTION

The Lincoln Police Dept. once again conducted its successful **Crime Free Dollars** program at Lincoln’s public high schools in cooperation with AAA. Police Officers checked the school parking lots for vehicles that were locked and had no valuables in view. These vehicles were entered into a drawing, with a winner from each school getting \$50 courtesy of AAA.

The winners were:

- ◆ Jordan Watteyne from East High School;
- ◆ CJ Lupori from Southeast High School;
- ◆ Trey Wayne from Southwest High School;
- ◆ Erin Andrews from Northeast High School;
- ◆ Caden Duncan from Northstar High School;
- ◆ ThaDah Eh from Lincoln High School.

Congratulations to the winners, and thank you to AAA for helping to make this project a success!